

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

Save a liberal supply of roots for the calves.

Keep business good in Canada by buying war bonds.

If anyone has to reduce rations let it not be the boys at the front.

November storms are hard on stock. A little night stabling will save feed.

Democracy could get along very well without the long-drawn-out titles now increasingly numerous.

After the middle of November the weather is not very dependable. Put the finishing touches on the fall work.

Canada has not yet stripped for the fray. Unnecessary industry is taking up too much time and attention.

In buying foundation breeding stock, as with the purchase of most other things, the best is always the cheapest.

The war will never be won by simply magnifying Allied successes and minimizing the victories of the Central Powers.

If the producer does not get back the cost of production when he markets his produce, he does not produce that particular commodity the next year.

We should prepare for a long war. If it comes to an end sooner than expected the country will be the better able to meet conditions by reason of the preparation.

In Denmark swine stocks are to be reduced from two millions down to half a million. Canada has a great opportunity to establish her bacon hog trade in Britain, which needs the bacon as soon as it can be produced. Breed an extra sow this fall.

To achieve the aims of the Food Controller, the first consideration is to increase the production of foods. The best way to do this is to assure the producer of a reasonable profit on his operations. There is no use of the Government asking others to take chances they will not take themselves. Results cannot come through such methods.

Canada has a Union Government. Such being the case, if it is to do what is expected of it the electors must elect neither all Conservatives nor all Liberals, but as nearly as possible an equal number of each pledged to support the Union and win the war. In some constituencies partyism will not down and reports of nominations of so-called Union Government supporters sound more like the reports of straight party nominations.

When officials of the Food Controller's Department are reported as predicting that before next spring the consumption of beef would be prohibited, it is time to call a halt. Such statements cause unrest in producing circles, and do more than any other one factor to curtail production and upset the steady flow of supplies. Producers would not care to fatten steers this winter if beef consumption were to be prohibited before spring. Farmers are deserving of a few frank statements of facts from the Department. Such would establish confidence.

### A Safe, Profitable, Convenient Investment.

Canada's Victory War Loan bonds should meet a ready sale in the country as well as in the city. When we stop to think of the vast country which stands behind them, their safety as an investment cannot be questioned. The bonds also net the investor five and a half per cent. which should make them very attractive as they are convenient and can be realized upon at any time. Farmers and those interested in agriculture should be particularly eager to purchase these bonds. Great Britain is the best market Canada has for her exportable surplus of farm crops and live stock. We must extend credit to Britain in order that she will be able to buy in this country the necessary food to feed her civilian population and the large armies she is maintaining at the front. It is absolutely necessary for this country's welfare, and in this the farmer is vitally interested, that Great Britain be able to purchase Canada's agricultural products so that he may find a ready market and may obtain the cash which is so important in maintaining business here. These war bonds are to supply the money with which to keep the British market open for our farm products. We must loan the money to Britain to pay Canadian producers for the products of the soil. Every farmer is interested in the maintenance of his best market. He desires to do his utmost in patriotic support of Canada, Great Britain and the Allies. He knows that the security is the best available, that the interest offered is satisfactory, that the bonds may be realized upon at any time, and are thus the handiest kind of investment. Safe, profitable, convenient, absolutely secure, readers who have money to invest should patriotically, and in their own interests, consider war bonds. They offer the small investor an opportunity and present a duty. This loan should be vastly over-subscribed by small investors alone.

### A Clear Statement Would Aid Production.

Some time ago there was published in this paper an editorial setting forth the difficulties under which the farmer operated at the present time, and pointing out that uncertainty was one of the main factors causing producers to hesitate, not knowing which way to go. The Food Controller's Department has as one of its main objects the increasing of production of foodstuffs, but we firmly believe that through uncertainty of action on the part of the Food Controller, the Department tends to hold up rather than increase production. It is a fact that farmers will take a chance on the law of supply and demand that they will not take on the actions of the Food Controller. The future is so uncertain that the man on the land is in a quandary. His labor supply is short and growing shorter, and he has no assurance that for a period of years prices will be high enough to pay him for producing any one particular crop. He has no assurance that if he produces abundantly influence will not be brought to bear upon the Food Controller which would result in setting a price below the point of profitable production. We do not believe these things will happen, but nevertheless the farmer keeps them in mind and the talk on every hand, and the first question you get when you enter a farm home is "What is the Food Controller going to do" with the price of this and that, and then the discussion is started. The farmer thinks he is taking a bigger chance now than he was before we had a Food Controller's Department established. Unless that Department is prepared to go the entire length and set prices all around which will leave producers a reasonable profit, and give consumers the necessities of life at a price leaving nothing but reasonable profits for those who handle the goods, such a Department is liable to

do as much harm as good. We are told that farmers must take chances, and they are willing to do so provided they get a fair chance. Inaction on the part of the Department supposed to be looking after food supplies will never increase production nor satisfy consumers. The farmer wants the facts, and the best encouragement to give him is definite action. It would clear the air if a statement were made, plainly setting forth the intended action of the Food Controller regarding the products of the soil. Does he intend to set the price of pork, beef, milk, grains, etc.? If so at what price and for how long? If not, the farmer would appreciate such a statement.

### Ensure the Bacon Market and the Hogs Will be Produced.

The Food Controller's Department is responsible for the statement that the swine herds of the European nations, including those of the enemy, have been decreased by 32,425,000 head, and in his opinion even though the Allies should kill a larger number of their own hogs they still could not supply the demands of their own countries. The Allies are now getting comparatively small quantities of pork and pork products from the smaller neutral nations surrounding Germany, which were formerly a source of large supply.

The entrance into the war of the United States will greatly increase the demands for bacon and other pork products to feed the immense army which that country will shortly have on the firing line. It is estimated that the United States' surplus production will little more than feed that country's own expeditionary forces. The Allies will look to Canada for an increase in supplies of bacon and other hog products. By cutting down food and stock animals in the Allied countries more grain is left for human consumption, and it is considered wiser to increase the supply of cereal grains grown in those countries and import meat animals from countries like Canada. This would seem to ensure a good market for bacon hogs, particularly in Great Britain, for some time after the war is over.

The Food Controller, we understand, has arranged with the millers that millfeed will be sold by them at cost, and he has promised that packing houses will be regulated and limited to a fair margin of profit. Feeding stuffs should be cheaper in Canada this year, and provided the Canadian farmer can be assured of a price which will mean profitable production, he will surely increase the output of hogs. He knows his duty, but, like every other businessman who depends upon his business for a living, must be definitely assured of reasonable returns for his labor. The Food Controller appeals to the suburban population to keep pigs to be fed on house garbage. He would do better to do something really worth while and absolutely assure the farmer who can produce pigs in quantities that he is going to get a reasonable profit for so doing and save a number of brood sows to be bred this fall to produce litters which would be ready to go on the market before this time next year, and thus save the situation. The market looks to be reasonably assured, but the Canadian producer of bacon hogs remembers what has transpired in the past and wishes to be entirely safeguarded if he is to produce hogs in practically unlimited quantities. Canada's net exports of hog products were only a little over six per cent. of the total British imports from 1911 to 1916. Great Britain cannot get anything like as large quantities of hogs from other countries as she formerly did. This year the receipts of hogs at Canadian stock yards in the months of September were less than sixty-five per cent. of those in the same month last year. If the Food Controller could see his way clear to assure the Canadian farmer absolutely that the market would hold for a number of years, we believe that the pigs would be